

Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee (RICC) minutes

February 25, 2008

14 Members were in attendance. Deb Balsdon was able to join us.

Carol Brakel opened the meeting with introductions. Carol stated we would like to have more parents join the RICC. Parents of children who have just turned three would be good candidates. To increase the amount of parents up North, maybe they could participate through Polycom or conference call.

Minutes from the December 3rd meeting were approved. Carol reminded everyone, the previous minutes are posted on the Early Intervention website.

Members shared information on upcoming trainings and events. *Minot State will be offering The North Dakota Symposium on Autism, March 17th. This will be an all day training. They hope to find what kind of services are needed, the unmet needs, and how they can support families. Speakers will be Dr. Thomas Higbee, Utah State University, on early intensive behavioral intervention. Dr. Sally Burton-Hoyle, Eastern Michigan University, will speak about what happens to kids after they graduate.* Dora mentioned the Apraxia Workshop in Fargo, May 6th. *On February 29th, Development Homes will have an Autism course on sensory issues. Because of the overwhelming response, they are expecting a large attendance and have moved it to The Memorial Union.* Carol Westby will be speaking on play and literacy in Minot, on March 28th. The fee is \$35.00 *Joan reminded everyone about the Assistive Technology session in Fargo on April 10th. The fee is \$20.00.* The School for the Blind is having their 100th Anniversary this year. *Pathfinders will have a conference in Minot, in May. There are stipends available for families if their child is under 3.*

Carol Brakel and Ramona started discussion regarding the Quality Improvement Plan. The monitoring will be changing format and frequency. The first quarter they will be reviewing cases, the next quarter they will be completing corrective action if necessary. They will have new cases to monitor every 6 months. This will be begin July 2008. Region IV is strong in these areas:

1. Early Intervention services are helping families know their rights and communicating their child's needs
2. They have very good referral services.
3. At least 2 people have been attending the evaluations.
4. IFSP's are being completed in 45 days.

Deb Balsdon spoke about the state report for July 2006 to June 2007. Case managers are doing very well documenting the family situations in the QER and why the services did not start on time. The Family Outcome Indicator is a survey to let us know how Early Intervention services have been helping families. They received 51.85% responses from the survey. There has been an increase in ID referrals and DD eligibility for children turning three, statewide.

Roxane Romanick starts next Monday as the state Family Liaison. She will collect phone data from families who are transitioning for closure. The Department of Human Service is always looking at ways to make improvements.

Ramona with KIDS Infant Development reported they continue to have referrals coming in. They have one therapist out on maternity leave and another will be out soon. It is nice to share information with staff on monitoring. The Mom's R Us Group has had a slow start. Maybe it is just bad timing and the cold weather. The case managers have been great in helping. Aimee and Joan have put a lot of effort into it.

Joan, our experienced parent, also spoke about the Mom's R Us Group. Jane, the experienced parent, in Fargo, offered to come to Grand Forks and speak to us about her parent group. She stated 16 of our families have been accepted to the Shriners Hospital in the Twin Cities. The playground project is still moving ahead. They have raised over \$40,000 dollars and have applied for several grants. Deb Balsdon offered to receive an application for Part C funds to cover the cost of playground equipment for 0 – 3 year olds up to \$25,000. Joan would need to send her information from the equipment company.

Carol Johnson told us Right Track is going strong and she is receiving lots of referrals. She also lead a discussion on the needs of children who are late talkers.

Tiffani from Altru told us there are preparing for Kids Camp. This is for ages 3 and up. They group them in Small, Middle and Big. The therapists evaluate which group the child should be in. They usually have 12 kids per age group.

Virginia Cleveland remains the parent rep on the state ICC. The next meeting is the beginning of March. She and Scot Hoeper attend the meetings by Polycom. Deb Balsdon facilitates.

Kristen Votava said they have big plans for Technical Assistance. They just had a Polycom last week on Autism. DD Case Managers present told them it was excellent and appreciated.

Carol Brakel announced the Medicaid Buy In goes into effect on April 1, 2008. .

The next meeting is May 19th.

Submitted by: Joan Karpenko